

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Currently amended): An electronic mall system according to Claim [[9]]
2 10, further comprising means for executing an application in bench mark mode, and bench mark
3 means for preventing the utilization charge from being levied for an application executed for not
4 longer than a predetermined time by the user desirous of checking the performance of the
5 application.

5-8. (Canceled)

1 9. (Currently amended): An electronic mall system comprising a plurality of
2 user terminals and a plurality of servers of application service providers coupled via a network,
3 comprising:

4 an application service provider registration database for storing [[a]] information
5 on the plurality of application service providers, a plurality of applications provided by the
6 plurality of the servers of the application service providers, and linkable applications working
7 with the applications associated with one another;

8 an application search unit operative to receive an application search request from
9 [[a]] any one of the user terminals via [[a]] the network, and to search the application service
10 provider registration database on the basis of the received application search request thereby
11 obtaining a requested application, and determine if the application requested from the user
12 terminal is registered in the application service provider registration database and if an
13 application linkable to the requested application is registered in the application service provider
14 registration database;

15 an application execution unit operative to execute the requested application on the
16 electronic mall system if the requested application is registered in the application service
17 provider registration database, and to execute [[a]] the linkable application on the electronic mall
18 system if the linkable application is registered in the application service provider registration
19 database along with the requested application.

1 10. (Previously presented): An electronic mall system according to Claim 9,
2 wherein the application service provider registration database further includes
3 utilization charge information for each application,
4 wherein the electronic mall system further includes settlement means for
5 receiving the total amount of the application utilization charge from each application user, and
6 for settling an application providing charge with each of the application service providers,
7 the total amount of the application utilization charge for each user being
8 calculated based on utilization charge information stored in the application service provider
9 registration database and on information of a utilization start time and a utilization end time of
10 the application as logged by the application execution unit when the application is executed,
11 the application providing charge being calculated based on a measure of
12 application utilization for each of the application service providers.

1 11. (Currently amended): A method for executing applications [[of]] on an
2 electronic mall system which couples a plurality of user terminals and a plurality of servers of
3 application service providers via a network, comprising steps of:
4 receiving an application search request from [[a]] any one of the user terminals
5 via [[a]] the network;
6 searching an application service provider registration database on the basis [[on]]
7 of the received application search request, the application service provider registration database
8 storing information on including a plurality of application service providers, a plurality of
9 applications provided by the plurality of the servers of the application service providers, and
10 linkable applications working with the applications associated with one another;

11 determining if the application requested from the user terminal is registered in the
12 application service provider registration database and if an application linkable to the requested
13 application is registered in the application service provider registration database;

14 executing [[a]] the requested application on the electronic mall system if the
15 requested application is registered in the application service provider registration database as
16 determined in the searching step; and

17 executing a linkable application on the electronic mall system if the linkable
18 application is registered in the application service provider registration database ~~along~~ with the
19 requested application.

1 12. (Currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium for storing
2 instructions for executing applications [[of]] on an electronic mall system which couples a
3 plurality of user terminals and a plurality of servers of application service providers via a
4 network, the instructions comprising the functions of:

5 receiving an application search request from [[a]] any one of the user terminals
6 via [[a]] the network;

7 searching an application service provider registration database on the basis [[on]]
8 of the received application search request, the application service provider registration database
9 storing information on including a plurality of application service providers, a plurality of
10 applications provided by the plurality of servers of the application service providers, and linkable
11 applications working with the applications associated with one another;

12 determining if the application requested from the user terminal is registered in the
13 application service provider registration database and if an application linkable to the requested
14 application is registered in the application service provider registration database;

15 executing [[a]] the requested application on the electronic mall system if the
16 requested application is registered in the application service provider registration database ~~as~~
17 determined in the searching step; and

18 executing [[a]] the linkable application on the electronic mail system if the
19 linkable application is registered in the application service provider registration database along
20 with the requested application.